

Palestine

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Dear Professor Brown:

Thank you very much indeed for your letter of January 17.

I appreciate the suggestion you made for a constructive solution of these difficulties. It is a very interesting one and will be given most careful consideration here.

With the kindest regards and all best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

George F. Kennan

Director, Policy Planning Staff

Philip Marshall Brown, Esquire,

Yeomans Hall Club,

Charleston,

South Carolina or FOI EXEMPTIONS

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POLICY PLANNING

STAFF PHILIP MARSHALL BROWN - YEAMANS HALL CLUB - CHARLESTON,
SOUTH CAROLINA

JAN 19 1947

Department of State

17 January 1948

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the signed orig-
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Dear George Kennan:

I am greatly concerned over the Palestine situation. Our Government has committed itself to an utterly phantastic and dangerous policy. Partition can never be accomplished without increasing bloodshed. It may involve the whole Middle East in war. An inchoate Jewish State may prove to be the point d'appui for communism. A joint military occupation could only lead to something worse than Korea.

My belief is that very soon our Government will be compelled to revise its policy. It should be prepared in advance to propose an alternative policy in order to bring some semblance of order in that part of the world and at the same time provide a means of retreat from this perilous policy.

The alternative policy seems to be clearly indicated, namely to extend over the whole of Palestine the internationalization planned for Jerusalem and its environs, including Bethlehem.

It would be infinitely preferable to have a single mandatory power than a mixed one. England is the logical Power for this responsibility and might even be willing to undertake it if properly backed morally by the United Nations.

I may seem to speak rather dogmatically but in self-defense I may state that I have been deeply interested in the Middle East ever since I was stationed in Constantinople fifty years ago. I went out to Palestine in 1918 on the same war transport with the first Zionist Commission to visit that country. I made two reports to the State Department at the special request of Secretary Lansing. My diagnosis of the Zionist program and my sceptical prophecies have been justified by events in a most melancholy way. I worked with Lord Halifax and a Jewish group to seek a solution which might avert the calamities which have ensued.

The basic principle for any solution of the Palestine situation is very simple, namely, acknowledgment that it is a Holy Land sacred to the Jews, Christians, and Moslems alike, and that no race or sect should be in a position of arbitrary predominance. Internationalization in other words.

I am confident that you will understand sympathetically my concern over this tragic situation. I hope you may be able to effect a change of policy by our Government.

George Kennan Esq. With happy remembrances and good wishes,
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Faithfully your friend,
PHILIP BROWN